

Amendments to the Claims:

1 1. **(Original)** A moveable pallet for firmly holding a surgical stapling cartridge as
2 drivers are inserted therein, the pallet comprising:

3 (a) a base having a lower surface for seating on a conveyer; and

4 (b) means mounted on an upper surface of the base for gripping the cartridge.

1 2. **(Original)** A moveable pallet firmly holding a surgical stapling cartridge as drivers
2 are inserted therein, the pallet comprising:

3 (a) a base having a lower surface seating on a conveyor; and

4 (b) means mounted on an upper surface of the base gripping the cartridge.

1 3. **(Original)** A moveable pallet for firmly holding a surgical stapling cartridge as
2 drivers are inserted therein, the pallet comprising:

3 (a) a base having a lower surface for seating on a conveyor, and an upper surface
4 having an elongated cartridge region;

5 (b) a first cartridge-retaining lip member movably mounted to the base on a first
6 side of the cartridge region, said first lip member being biased toward the
7 cartridge region and having a lip extending from the lip member into the cartridge
8 region; and

9 (c) a second cartridge-retaining lip member mounted to the base on a second side
10 of the cartridge region, said lip member having a lip extending from the lip
11 member into the cartridge region.

1 4. **(Original)** The pallet in accordance with claim 3, wherein the cartridge region is an
2 elongated slot formed between the lip members for holding the cartridge.

1 5. **(Original)** The pallet in accordance with claim 4, wherein the second cartridge-
2 retaining lip member is movably mounted to the base and biased toward the slot.

1 6. **(Original)** The pallet in accordance with claim 5, further comprising a gap formed
2 between the first and second lip members and adapted to receive a tongue that is inserted
3 upwardly through an aperture in the base and seating against opposing surfaces of the lip
4 members and displacing the lip members away from the slot.

1 7. **(Original)** The pallet in accordance with claim 5, further comprising a finger mounted
2 to the base near a first longitudinal end of the slot, said finger extending upwardly from
3 the base for seating in a recess of said cartridge.

1 8. **(Original)** The pallet in accordance with claim 7, wherein the lip members are
2 slidably mounted within chambers formed in the base.

1 9. **(Original)** The pallet in accordance with claim 8, further comprising chamber cover
2 panels mounted to the base over the chambers, said chamber cover panels having upper
3 surfaces.

1 10. **(Original)** The pallet in accordance with claim 9, wherein said cover panel upper
2 surfaces define seating surfaces for seating against stops and vertically positioning the
3 pallet.

1 11. **(Original)** The pallet in accordance with claim 7, further comprising at least one
2 tapered cavity formed in the lower surface of the base for receiving a tapered tip and
3 horizontally positioning the pallet.

1 12. **(Original)** A moveable pallet for firmly holding a surgical stapling cartridge as
2 drivers are inserted therein, the pallet comprising:

3 (a) a base having a lower surface for seating on a conveyor;

4 (b) an elongated slot formed in an upper surface of the base for holding the
5 cartridge;

6 (c) a first cartridge-retaining lip member movably mounted to the base on a first
7 side of the slot, said first lip member being biased toward the slot and having a lip
8 extending into the slot;

9 (d) a second cartridge-retaining lip member movably mounted to the base on a
10 second side of the slot, said second lip member being biased toward the slot and
11 having a lip extending into the slot;
12 (e) a gap formed between the first and second lip members and adapted to receive
13 a tongue inserted upwardly through an aperture in the base, for seating against
14 opposing surfaces of the lip members and displacing the lip members away from
15 the slot; and
16 (f) a finger mounted to the base near a first longitudinal end of the slot, said finger
17 extending upwardly from the base for seating within a recess of said cartridge.

1 13. **(Original)** The pallet in accordance with claim 12, further comprising first and
2 second chambers formed in the base on the first and second sides of the slot,
3 respectively, said first and second chambers housing the first and second lip members,
4 respectively.

1 14. **(Original)** The pallet in accordance with claim 13, further comprising at least one
2 tapered cavity formed in the lower surface of the base for receiving a foot for positively
3 positioning the pallet horizontally.

1 15. **(Original)** The pallet in accordance with claim 14, further comprising at least one
2 vertical registration surface for seating against at least two registration arms for positively
3 positioning the pallet vertically.

- 1 16. **(Original)** The pallet in accordance with claim 15, further comprising chamber cover
- 2 panels mounted to the base over the chambers, wherein upper surfaces of the cover
- 3 panels comprise said at least one vertical registration surface.

Claims 17 - 34 (Cancelled)